

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS BREMEN 383

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: BREMEN METAL WORKERS DEMONSTRATE FOR JOB SECURITY

1. ON AUGUST 25, AN ESTIMATED 3,000 BREMEN METAL WORKERS FOLLOWED A CALL OF THEIR ORGANIZATION, THE METAL WORKERS UNION (IG METALL) TO DEMONSTRATE IN THE MARKET SQUARE FOR JOB SECURITY IN LAND BREMEN. THE UNION FEARS THAT THE 5.5 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN LAND BREMEN - THE HIGHEST IN THE FRG - WILL CONTINUE TO RISE AND WITHIN 6 MONTHS MAY REACH 10 PERCENT.

2. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE DEMONSTRATORS, IG METALL CHAIRMAN ARNO WEINKAUF WARNED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE BREMEN METAL INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS IN THE SHIPBUILDING AND THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES HAS BECOME HIGHLY CRITICAL. FURTHER, ABOUT 500 WORKERS ARE THREATENED BY DISMISSALS AT THE KLOECKNER STEEL PLANT. ACCORDING TO IG METALL ESTIMATES, UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT 5,000 WORKERS MAY LOSE THEIR JOBS IN BREMEN THROUGH THE PLANNED MERGER OF VFW-FOKKER WITH THE BAVARIAN FIRM MBB, IF ORDERS AND PRODUCTION OF BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT WERE TO GO TO THE PLANTS OF THE MERGED ENTERPRISE IN SOUTH GERMANY. ALSO, WORKERS IN THE BREMEN SHIPYARDS WILL FACE DISMISSALS AND SHORT-TIME WORK IF NO NEW ORDERS ARE RECEIVED QUICKLY. ALMOST 1,500 WORKERS ALREADY LOST

THEIR JOBS AT THE KRUPP MASCHINENBAU AND SPINNBAU IN BREMEN.

3. WEINKAUF ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LAND GOVERNMENTS OF BREMEN AND LOWER SAXONY AND DEMANDED BETTER INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION TO IMPROVE THE STRUCTURE OF BREMEN'S ECONOMY SINCE IN HIS OPINION THE HIGH RATE OF LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOT SO MUCH CYCLICAL AS STRUCTURAL IN NATURE. WEINKAUF ALSO CALLED FOR REFORM OF THE FREE MARKET ECONOMY IN THE FRG WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, HAS PROVED UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY UNEMPLOYMENT. WHILE REJECTING THE SOCIALIST PLANNED ECONOMY, HE CALLED INSTEAD FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FRENCH MODEL OF "PLANIFICATION".

4. COMMENT: THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE IG METAL DEMONSTRATION WAS TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE FEDERAL AND LAND GOVERNMENTS TO THE RISKS OF GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT IN LAND BREMEN AND TO SEEK SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE AFFECTED INDUSTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, WHOSE IMPENDING REORGANIZATION (MERGER) THREATENS THE JOB SECURITY OF VFW WORKERS IN BREMEN. SCHIFFMAN

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